

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 102628

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PN

SUBJECT: PANAMA CANAL TREATIES

FOR AMBASSADOR JORDEN

1. FOLLOWING IS DRAFT TEXT OF A RESOLUTION WHICH COULD
BE PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES:

BEGIN TEXT. "THE PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE ORGANIZATION
OF AMERICAN STATES

CONSIDERING:

THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED
STATES AND PANAMA LEADING TO AGREEMENT ON A NEW FRAMEWORK
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FOR OPERATING THE PANAMA CANAL BEGAN WITH A JOINT
DECLARATION SIGNED BY THOSE COUNTRIES REPRESENTATIVES TO
THE COUNCIL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES ON
APRIL 3, 1964;

THAT THE FIFTH AND SIXTH ORDINARY SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY HEARD JOINT REPORTS FROM THE UNITED STATES AND

PANAMA ON THE PROGRESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT THE PARTIES WOULD SOON CONCLUDE A 'NEW, JUST, AND EQUITABLE TREATY CONCERNING THE CANAL, WHICH WOULD ELIMINATE FOR ALL TIME THE CAUSES OF CONFLICT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND BE EFFECTIVE IN STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND PEACE IN THE AMERICAS;'

THAT THE SEVENTH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECEIVED REPORTS THAT SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE TOWARD AGREEMENT ON A NEW ARRANGEMENT FOR THE CANAL;

THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS CULMINATED IN THE HALL OF THE AMERICAS ON SEPTEMBER 7, 1977, IN THE SIGNING BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, JIMMY CARTER, AND THE CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA, OMAR TORRIJOS HERRERA, OF TWO AGREEMENTS: THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY AND THE TREATY CONCERNING THE PERMANENT NEUTRALITY AND OPERATION OF THE PANAMA CANAL;

THAT BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND PANAMA HAVE COMPLETED THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES PROVIDING FOR ADVICE AND CONSENT TO RATIFICATION OF BOTH TREATIES;

RESOLVES:
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1. TO ENDORSE THE REGIME OF NEUTRALITY UNDER WHICH THE CANAL WILL OPERATE AFTER THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE NEW TREATIES, AS IT WILL ENSURE THAT THE PANAMA CANAL WILL REMAIN OPEN, SECURE, NEUTRAL, AND ACCESSIBLE TO THE SHIPS OF ALL NATIONS OF THE WORLD ON A NONDISCRIMINATORY BASIS.

2. TO NOTE WITH GREAT SATISFACTION THAT THE UNITED STATES AND PANAMA HAVE REAFFIRMED AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THEIR TREATY RELATIONSHIP THEIR ADHERENCE TO THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERVENTION, SET FORTH IN THE CHARTERS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES AND THE UNITED NATIONS, AS WELL AS THE INTER-AMERICAN TREATY OF RECIPROCAL ASSISTANCE.

3. TO CONGRATULATE THE PARTIES FOR HAVING BROUGHT THESE LONG NEGOTIATIONS TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION, THEREBY DEMONSTRATING THEIR OWN COMMITMENT TO PEACE AND SETTING AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHER AMERICAN STATES TO FOLLOW BY RESOLVING DISPUTES WHICH MAY ARISE BETWEEN THEM BY THE PACIFIC SETTLEMENT PROCEDURES LAID DOWN IN THE CHARTER."
END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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